

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 23, 2005, has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the above Office Action, claims 1-3, 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b), as being anticipated by newly cited *Brown* (U.S. Patent No. 4,881,491). Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Keefe* (U.S. Patent No. 4,223,637); claims 1-7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hegedus et al.* (EP Patent No. 0104766; and claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over newly cited *Brown*.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 11 and 12 patentably distinguish over the prior art of record and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the indication of allowable subject matter, and in an effort to expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of allowable claim 11, claim 11 has been canceled, and the dependency of claim 12 has been amended in view thereof. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-10 and 12 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel for Applicant regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

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By: Wendi Leigh Weinstein
Wendi Leigh Weinstein
Registration No. 34,456

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620